

1 A process and apparatus for producing a sterile milk product from raw
2 milk is disclosed. After separation, the skim milk portion is conducted to a
3 primary filter assembly having a plurality of microfiltration units arranged in
series. Bacteria having a size larger than the pores in the microfilters are retained
5 in the retentate. The retentate is discharged from the ^{primary} first filter assembly and
flows to a secondary filter assembly having a plurality of microfiltration units.
The permeate from the units in the primary filter assembly are combined and
subjected to heat treatment.